

10. (Twice amended) A mosaic polypeptide comprising an isolated antigenic epitope of HCV NS3 protein comprising amino acid residues 1471-1573 of the HCV polyprotein, wherein the mosaic polypeptide is not the HCV polyprotein.

11. (Twice amended) A mosaic polypeptide comprising an isolated antigenic epitope of HCV NS4 protein comprising amino acid residues 1789-1867 of the HCV polyprotein, wherein the mosaic polypeptide is not the HCV polyprotein.

C 12. (Twice amended) A mosaic polypeptide comprising an isolated antigenic epitope of HCV NS4 protein comprising amino acid residues 1916-1948 of the HCV polyprotein, wherein the mosaic polypeptide is not the HCV polyprotein.

13. (Thrice amended) A mosaic polypeptide comprising an isolated antigenic epitope of HCV NS5a protein comprising amino acid residues 2322-2423 of the HCV polyprotein, wherein the mosaic polypeptide is not the HCV polyprotein.

Please add the following new claims:

Sub D 32. (New) A mosaic polypeptide comprising at least two isolated antigenic epitopes of HCV wherein the isolated antigenic epitopes comprise amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acid residues 1-91, 1471-1573, 1789-1867, 1916-1948 and 2322-2423 of the HCV polyprotein, wherein the mosaic polypeptide is not the HCV polyprotein.

C2 33. (New) The mosaic polypeptide of claim 32, wherein the isolated antigenic epitopes comprise sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-5.

34. (New) The mosaic polypeptide of claim 32, wherein the mosaic polypeptide comprises at least three isolated antigenic epitopes of HCV selected from the group consisting of amino acid residues 1-91, 1471-1573, 1789-1867, 1916-1948 and 2322-2423.

Sub D
35. (New) The mosaic polypeptide of claim 34, wherein the isolated antigenic epitopes comprise sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-5.

36. (New) The mosaic polypeptide of claim 34, wherein the mosaic polypeptide comprises at least four isolated antigenic epitopes of HCV selected from the group consisting of amino acid residues 1-91, 1471-1573, 1789-1867, 1916-1948 and 2322-2423.

37. (New) The mosaic polypeptide of claim 36, wherein the isolated antigenic epitopes comprise sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-5.

C2
38. (New) A mosaic polypeptide comprising an isolated antigenic epitope of HCV comprising amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acid residues 1-91, 1471-1573, 1789-1867, 1916-1948 and 2322-2423 of the HCV polyprotein and one or more additional epitopes of the HCV core protein, NS3 protein and NS4 protein, wherein the mosaic polypeptide is not the HCV polyprotein.

39. (New) The mosaic polypeptide of claim 38, wherein the amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-5.

40. (New) A mosaic polypeptide comprising an isolated antigenic epitope of HCV comprising amino acid residues of the HCV polyprotein wherein the amino acid sequence is selected from